

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 15-17, 19-23 and 25-29 are at issue. Claims 30-39 have been allowed and Claims 4, 18 and 24 have been indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The rejections of Claims 1-3, 5-10, 16, 17, 19-23, 25 and 29 as obvious in view of Rice et al. and Hill; Rice et al., Hill and Kim; or Rice et al., Hill, Kim and Horiguchi are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to more precisely claim the alignment system of the present invention such that the alignment system includes “an elongated straight channel having an end into which a user looks, the longitudinal axis of the channel being the axis along which the eye is aligned and an object being disposed in the channel at a distance from the end into which the user looks wherein the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel from the location of the object to the end into which the user looks is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis.” Neither Rice et al., Hill, Kim or Horiguchi teach such a claimed alignment system. In particular, in the Office Action, neither Rice or Kim were relied on for disclosing an alignment channel. Moreover, neither Hill nor Horiguchi disclose an alignment system with the channel defined as recited in Claims 1-29. In particular, there is no channel in Hill having an aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel that is such that an object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis of the channel and wherein the object is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis of the channel as claimed. First, in Hill, there is no channel having an identifiable diameter or aspect ratio of diameter to length. Moreover, the target in Hill is always viewable regardless of whether the eye is aligned along an axis or if it is at an angle thereto. Moreover, Horiguchi does not disclose the claimed “elongated straight channel ... wherein the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel from the location of the object to the end into which the user looks is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis.” Specifically, the optical fiber cable 9 of Horiguchi is not a “straight channel” as claimed. Moreover, there is no disclosure in Horiguchi that the cable 9 has an aspect ratio of the diameter of the cable to the length of the cable from the location of the light 10 to the end into

which the user looks that is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis of the cable and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis. Because neither Rice et al., Hill, Kim or Horiguchi teach the claimed alignment system as discussed above, these references cannot make obvious Claims 1-29 of the present invention. As such, these claims are believed to be allowable.

The rejections of Claims 11-12 and 26-27 as obvious in view of Rice et al., Hill and Miller or Rice et al., Hill, Kim and Miller are respectfully traversed. Claims 11, 12, 26 and 27 are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 16 from which these claims respectively depend. Miller does not overcome the deficiencies of Rice et al., Hill and Kim as discussed above since Miller does not disclose the claimed alignment system having an elongated straight channel wherein the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel from the location of the object to the end into which the user looks is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis.

The rejection of Claims 13 and 28 in view of Rice et al., Hill and Heacock or Rice et al., Hill, Kim and Heacock is respectfully traversed. Claims 13 and 28 are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 16 from which Claims 13 and 28 respectively depend. Heacock does not overcome the deficiencies of Rice et al., Hill and Kim as discussed above since Heacock does not disclose the claimed alignment system including an elongated straight channel having an aspect ratio as set forth in Claims 1 and 16.

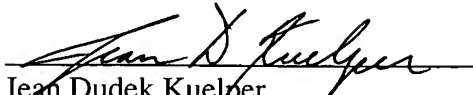
The rejection of Claim 15 in view of Rice et al., Hill, Kim and Dreher et al. is respectfully traversed. Claim 15 is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1 from which Claim 15 depends. Dreher et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Rice et al., Hill and Kim as discussed above since Dreher does not disclose the claimed alignment system including an elongated straight channel having the aspect ratio as claimed.

Claims 30-39 have been allowed and Claims 1-29 are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-23 and 25-29

is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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